Embassy of the United States of America



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Demonstration Notice and Border Crossing Closure:

Demonstration Notice:

There was a spontaneous protest on Thursday, February 4, against proposed construction projects by the Macedonian government in the City Square. There is a strong likelihood of continued demonstrations in this area in the coming days, including unconfirmed reports of another demonstration on Friday, February 5, 2010. On March 29, 2009, a demonstration related to construction of a church in this area turned violent. As with any large public gathering you should exercise good situational awareness and adjust your routes accordingly.

Demonstrations take place in Macedonia from time to time in response to world events or local developments. We remind American citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. American citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

Border Closure:

According to media reports and the Macedonian Ministry of Interior, all border crossings with Greece will be closed Friday, February 5, 2010 for all forms of traffic for 24 hours (until 6 am, Saturday, February 6, 2010) due to a strike by the Greek Customs and Revenue Services. The border can only be crossed on foot. There may be additional closures in the coming weeks.

Americans traveling abroad should regularly monitor the <u>U.S. Embassy's website</u>, and the U.S. Department of State's <u>Bureau of Consular Affairs website</u>, where the current Worldwide Caution, Travel Warnings, Travel Alerts, and Country Specific Information can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review to "<u>A Safe Trip Abroad</u>," which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad.

In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. and Canada, or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

American citizens living or traveling abroad are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the <u>State Department's travel registration website</u>. The <u>U.S. Embassy</u> is located at ul. Samoilova 21, 1000 Skopje. The telephone number is (389) 2-310-2000, <u>e-mail</u>.